

# VOLTS News

## Valuing Our Lives Through Safety

September 2023—Volume 118

### VOLTS Data Report for August

Total Observations: 324

IPSC Emp. Contact Rate: 1.01

Total Safe Behaviors: 2,715

Total At-Risk Behaviors: 22

#### Top 3 Safe Behaviors

- Focus on Task (275)
- Required PPE (268)
- Eyes on Path (227)

#### Top 3 At-Risk Exposures

- Respiratory (7)
- Required PPE (6)
- Walk/Work Surfaces (4)

### VOLTS Steering Committee Members

Casey Draper, Facilitator

Amy White, Secretary/Editor

Alan Wood

Brandon Webb

Bryan Chapman

Dusty Smith

Joe Pruitt

Rod Moore

T.J. Taylor

Van Beckstrom, Jr.

Mark Shipley, Sponsor



### What to Know About Dust Hazards by Casey Draper



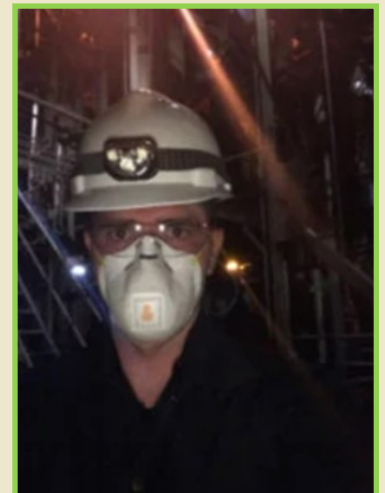
The large volume of high-quality VOLTS observations submitted consistently each month occasionally presents exposures that trend as leading indicators within our organization. Using our Behavior Accident Prevention Process (BAPP) technology, these leading indicators are used as data points for action planning between the VOLTS Steering Committee, Central Safety Committee, and IPSC Safety Section. These groups feel the focus should be on controlling exposures for ourselves and others in a proactive way since safety is everyone's responsibility.

Using Trend Analysis over the past several months, we have identified a significant increase in respiratory exposure. Our data shows that the respiratory category has been marked at-risk 14.1 percent of the 192 times it has been observed since January 1, 2023, indicating that respiratory exposure has the highest At-Risk exposure rate in 2023 of all observation categories.

Coal dust, metal fumes from welding and cutting, and chemical vapors are common hazards within our workplace. Adhering to respiratory protection standards can moderate exposures to protect workers from chronic and acute respiratory illnesses such as obstructive lung disease.

#### Respiratory Hazard Protection Hierarchy of Controls

- Engineering Controls
  - ⇒ Confine operations to avoid employee exposure
  - ⇒ Use ventilation systems when possible
- Administrative
  - ⇒ Keep workers away from hazardous air quality
  - ⇒ Train employees to work in a safer way
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - ⇒ Dust mask respirator
  - ⇒ Half-face respirator
  - ⇒ Full-face respirator
  - ⇒ Positive-Pressure, Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)



#### Dust Hazard Analysis and Combustible Dust

There has been a lot of discussion around the plant recently about Powder River Basin (PRB) coal products. IPSC started receiving PRB coal in March 2023, and

## What to Know About Dust Hazards by Casey Draper (cont.)

since then, some unique challenges have been experienced in all departments.

To field verify, gather data, and provide feedback to workers, I intentionally go out into the IPSC work areas to perform VOLTS observations and witness the types of work being performed. Frequently performing these observations gives me the opportunity to consistently interact with different workers in several areas around the plant. As an onlooker, I see and hear about the different types of exposures and issues workers are currently dealing with because of PRB coal.

There are very strong justifications for the use of PRB coal at IPSC, but according to *Power Magazine* (2011), “the main challenge of PRB coal is that its use can lead to combustible dust explosions if plant personnel fail to handle it correctly....In order to utilize PRB coal in power generation facilities, we need to make protecting workers and managing the risks top priorities.



“This 5-day-old undisturbed coal fractured simply as a result of exposure to oxygen and the rapid decrease in moisture content. As a result, combustible dust can easily be dispersed into the air and, when exposed to oxygen and a source of ignition, may become a significant danger. (*Power Magazine*, 2011)

### IPSC Culture That Promotes Safety

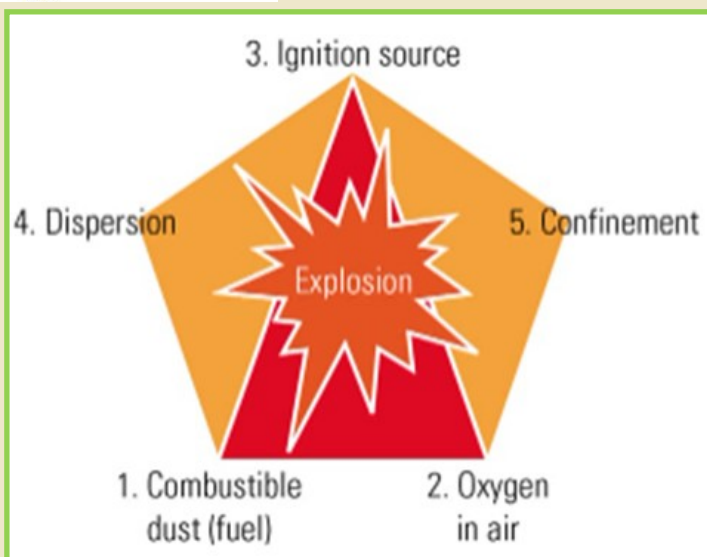
Since 2008, approximately 60 percent of all fire events in our industry have been attributed to coal dust. In a typical power generation facility, the fuel is commonly ignited by a hot surface, electrostatic discharged from pulverized coal, an open spark, hot work, or an open flame. Unfortunately, all the components required for a dust explosion are quite common in our industry. The need to eliminate negative attitudes toward housekeeping is critical when dealing with combustible dust. Since PRB coal is part of our foreseeable future, being aware of combustible dust hazards is essential to ensure the safety of everyone within the facility.

I hope this information clarifies that safety is everyone’s responsibility and being proactive in hazard management is a key component in the IPSC culture that promotes safety.



*What's your why?*

Do an observation today!



## Thanks for supporting the 2023 “VOLTS Strike Out Hunger” Initiative!



- July—347 Observations
- August—324 Observations
- Total—\$2,348

With your help, we raised \$2,348 to help combat food insecurity for Millard County kids during the school year!

If you want to provide additional help throughout the year, please contact your local school.